United Nations A/RES/61/260

General Assembly

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3 May 2007

Sixty-first session
Agenda item 124

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/61/654/Add.1)*]

61/260. Programme of work of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2007

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the Joint Inspection Unit, in particular resolutions 31/192 of 22 December 1976, 50/233 of 7 June 1996, 54/16 of 29 October 1999, 55/230 of 23 December 2000, 56/245 of 24 December 2001, 57/284 A and B of 20 December 2002, 58/286 of 8 April 2004, 59/267 of 23 December 2004, 60/258 of 8 May 2006 and 61/238 of 22 December 2006,

Having considered the programme of work of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2007 contained in paragraphs 59 to 83 of its report,[1]

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the programme of work of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2007;[1]

2. *Decides* to consider jointly the annual report and programme of work of the Joint Inspection Unit at the first part of its resumed sessions, starting from the sixty-second session.

93rd plenary meeting
4 April 2007

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 34* (A/62/34).

General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 April 2007

Sixty-first session
Agenda item 128

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/61/832)*]

61/261. Administration of justice at the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 57/307 of 15 April 2003, 59/266 of 23 December 2004 and 59/283 of 13 April 2005,

Reiterating that a transparent, impartial, independent and effective system of administration of justice is a necessary condition for ensuring fair and just treatment of United Nations staff and is important for the success of human resources reform in the Organization,

Affirming the importance of the United Nations as an exemplary employer,

Stressing the importance of measures to eliminate any conflicts of interest in the system of administration of justice,

Recognizing that the current system of administration of justice at the United Nations is slow, cumbersome, ineffective and lacking in professionalism, and that the current system of administrative review is flawed,

Noting with concern that an overwhelming majority of individuals serving in the system of administration of justice lack legal training or qualifications,

Noting that legal assistance to the management of the Organization is provided by a cadre of professional lawyers,

Emphasizing the importance for the United Nations to have an efficient and effective system of administration of justice so as to ensure that individuals and the Organization are held accountable for their actions in accordance with relevant resolutions and regulations,

Expressing its appreciation for the consensual outcome of the seventh special session of the Staff-Management Coordination Committee,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the administration of justice in the Secretariat: implementation of resolution 59/283,[1] the report of the Redesign Panel on the United Nations system of administration of justice,[2] the note

[1] A/61/342.
[2] A/61/205.

by the Secretary-General thereon[3] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[4] the reports of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Ombudsman,[5] the reports of the Secretary-General on the administration of justice in the Secretariat: outcome of the work of the Joint Appeals Board and statistics on the disposition of cases and the work of the Panel of Counsel,[6] the report of the Secretary-General on the administration of justice in the Secretariat[7] and the related report of the Advisory Committee,[8] the reports of the Secretary-General concerning his practice in disciplinary matters and in cases of criminal behaviour,[9] and the letter dated 14 October 2005 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee,[10]

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Redesign Panel on the United Nations system of administration of justice[2] and the note by the Secretary-General thereon;[3]

2. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the administration of justice in the Secretariat: implementation of resolution 59/283,[1] the activities of the Ombudsman,[5] the administration of justice in the Secretariat: outcome of the work of the Joint Appeals Board and statistics on the disposition of cases and the work of the Panel of Counsel,[6] the administration of justice in the Secretariat[7] and the practice of the Secretary-General in disciplinary matters and in cases of criminal behaviour,[9] and the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[4, 8]

3. *Recalls* its decision 61/511 B of 28 March 2007;

New system of administration of justice

4. *Decides* to establish a new, independent, transparent, professionalized, adequately resourced and decentralized system of administration of justice consistent with the relevant rules of international law and the principles of the rule of law and due process to ensure respect for the rights and obligations of staff members and the accountability of managers and staff members alike;

5. *Recognizes* that the introduction of the new system of administration of justice should, inter alia, have a positive impact on staff-management relations and improve the performance of both staff and managers;

6. *Stresses* the importance of increased transparency in decision-making and increased accountability of managers for the system;

7. *Also stresses* the importance of the proper implementation of a sound performance appraisal system as a potential means of avoiding conflict and the need to provide training to improve the conflict-resolution skills of managers;

8. *Reaffirms* staff rule 112.3, which relates to the financial liability of managers;

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[3] A/61/758.

[4] A/61/815.

[5] A/60/376 and A/61/524.

[6] A/60/72 and Corr.1 and A/61/71.

[7] A/59/883.

[8] A/60/7/Add.1. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 7A*.

[9] A/60/315 and A/61/206.

[10] A/C.5/60/10.

9. *Stresses* the need for comprehensive training for all participants in the system of administration of justice as well as the dissemination of information among staff members about the system of administration of justice, the remedies available and the rights and obligations of staff members and managers;

10. *Endorses* the recommendation of the Redesign Panel to abolish the Panels on Discrimination and Other Grievances, whose functions relating to the informal system will be transferred to the Office of the Ombudsman and whose other functions will be transferred to the formal system of administration of justice;

Informal system

11. *Recognizes* that the informal resolution of conflict is a crucial element of the system of administration of justice, and emphasizes that all possible use should be made of the informal system in order to avoid unnecessary litigation;

12. *Decides* to create a single integrated and decentralized Office of the Ombudsman for the United Nations Secretariat, funds and programmes;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to identify three posts for the Office of the Ombudsman for Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi;

14. *Emphasizes* the need for the Ombudsman to encourage staff to seek resolution through the informal system;

15. *Affirms* mediation as an important component of an effective and efficient informal system of administration of justice that should be available to any party to the conflict at any time before a matter proceeds to final judgement;

16. *Decides* to formally establish a Mediation Division located at Headquarters within the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman to provide formal mediation services for the United Nations Secretariat, funds and programmes;

17. *Stresses* that once parties have reached an agreement through mediation they are precluded from litigating claims covered by the agreement and that parties should be able to bring an action in the formal system to enforce the implementation of that agreement;

18. *Emphasizes* the role of the Ombudsman to report on broad systemic issues that he or she identifies, as well as those that are brought to his or her attention;

Formal system

19. *Agrees* that the formal system of administration of justice should comprise two tiers, consisting of a first instance, the United Nations Dispute Tribunal, and an appellate instance, the United Nations Appeals Tribunal, rendering binding decisions and ordering appropriate remedies;

20. *Decides* that a decentralized United Nations Dispute Tribunal shall replace existing advisory bodies within the current system of administration of justice, including the Joint Appeals Boards, Joint Disciplinary Committees and other bodies as appropriate;

21. *Emphasizes* the importance of efficiency in the work practices of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal;

22. *Stresses* that the effectiveness of the formal system will depend largely on the legal and judicial expertise, experience, independence and other qualifications of the judges;

23. *Agrees* that legal assistance for staff should continue to be provided, and supports the strengthening of a professional office of staff legal assistance;

24. *Reiterates* the invitation to staff representatives to further explore the possibility of establishing a staff-funded scheme in the Organization that would provide legal advice and support to the staff; staff representatives may consult with the Secretary-General as they deem appropriate;

Management evaluation

25. *Acknowledges* the need to have in place a process for management evaluation that is efficient, effective and impartial;

26. *Reaffirms* the importance of the general principle of exhausting administrative remedies before formal proceedings are instituted;

27. *Endorses* the measures to ensure managerial accountability contained in paragraph 31 of the note by the Secretary-General;[3]

Office of the Administration of Justice

28. *Agrees* to establish the Office of the Administration of Justice, headed by a senior management-level official, which will have overall responsibility for the coordination of the United Nations system of administration of justice;

Transitional measures

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Joint Appeals Boards, the Joint Disciplinary Committees, the United Nations Administrative Tribunal and other bodies, as appropriate, continue to function until the new system is operational with a view to clearing all cases that are before them;

30. *Urges* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure the proper functioning of the current system of administration of justice prior to the implementation of the new system, including through the implementation of General Assembly resolution 59/283;

31. *Also urges* the Secretary-General to continue the efforts needed to comply with the time limits of the appeals process and to clear the existing backlog of cases at all stages;

Further reports

32. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the following issues regarding the establishment of the new system of administration of justice:

(*a*) An in-depth analysis regarding the scope of persons who might be covered by the new system of administration of justice;

(*b*) Proposals on the nomination and selection process for the Ombudsmen and judges, taking into account the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions as set out in paragraphs 30 and 48 of its report;[4]

(*c*) Revised terms of reference for the Ombudsman, as appropriate, taking into account the proposed changes and suggested locations;

(*d*) Detailed proposals for the strengthening of an office of staff legal assistance, including information on practices in the governmental and intergovernmental sectors;

(*e*) Detailed and objective criteria for determining which peacekeeping operations and special political missions should have elements of the system of administration of justice within their post structures;

(*f*) The outcome of the Staff-Management Coordination Committee working group on disciplinary proceedings, including on the recommendations of the Redesign Panel on peacekeeping operations;

(*g*) Arrangements for the members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal whose terms of office are affected by the implementation of the new system;

(*h*) Proposals for registries for the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and its interim rules;

(*i*) A proposal for management evaluation, taking into account the recommendations of the Advisory Committee as set out in paragraphs 32 to 40 of its report;[4]

(*j*) Detailed information on the relationship and cost-sharing arrangements with the funds and programmes and underlying cost parameters, taking into consideration the comments of the Advisory Committee;

(*k*) A comparison of the cost of the current Joint Appeals Board/Joint Disciplinary Committee/United Nations Administrative Tribunal system and the proposed United Nations Dispute Tribunal/United Nations Appeals Tribunal system;

(*l*) Resource requirements for the new system of administration of justice;

33. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to consolidate the above-mentioned reports to the extent possible and to submit them to the General Assembly as a matter of priority no later than the early part of the main part of its sixty-second session;

34. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly a report on resources required for the implementation of the present resolution as a matter of priority at the second part of its resumed sixty-first session;

Other issues

35. *Invites* the Sixth Committee to consider the legal aspects of the reports to be submitted by the Secretary-General without prejudice to the role of the Fifth Committee as the Main Committee entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters;

36. *Decides* to continue consideration of this item during its sixty-second session as a matter of priority with the objective of implementing the new system of administration of justice no later than January 2009.

93rd plenary meeting
4 April 2007

General Assembly

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3 May 2007

Sixty-first session
Agenda item 117

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/61/592/Add.4)*]

61/262. Conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the International Court of Justice and judges and ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

The General Assembly,

Recalling section VIII of its resolution 53/214 of 18 December 1998, its resolutions 55/249 of 12 April 2001, 56/285 of 27 June 2002 and 57/289 of 20 December 2002 and section III of its resolution 59/282 of 13 April 2005,

Recalling also Article 32 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, as well as relevant General Assembly resolutions that govern the conditions of service and compensation for the members of the International Court of Justice and the judges of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

1. *Reaffirms* the principle that the conditions of service and compensation for non-Secretariat United Nations officials shall be separate and distinct from those for officials of the Secretariat;

2. *Recalls* that the International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations;

3. *Also recalls* section III, paragraph 4, of its resolution 59/282, by which it decided to increase the annual salary of the members of the International Court of

[1] A/61/554.

[2] A/61/612 and Corr.1.

Justice and the judges and ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda by 6.3 per cent as an interim measure and further recalls section III, paragraph 8, of the resolution;

4. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in its report,[2] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

5. *Recalls* its resolution 37/240 of 21 December 1982, and requests the Secretary-General to review and update the travel and subsistence regulations for the International Court of Justice, taking into account the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraph 15 of its report[2] and bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, and to report thereon to the General Assembly, for its approval, at its sixty-second session;

6. *Endorses* the proposal of the Secretary-General contained in paragraph 80 of his report[1] whereby the annual salaries of the members of the International Court of Justice and the judges and ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda would comprise an annual base salary with a corresponding post adjustment per index point equal to one per cent of the net base salary to which would be applied a post adjustment multiplier, as appropriate, taking into account the proposals of the Secretary-General contained in paragraphs 83 and 84 of his report;[1]

7. *Decides* to set, effective 1 January 2007, the annual net base salary of the members of the International Court of Justice and the judges and ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda at 133,500 United States dollars, with a corresponding post adjustment per index point equal to one per cent of the net base salary, to which would be applied the post adjustment multiplier for the Netherlands or for the United Republic of Tanzania, as appropriate;

8. *Also decides* to maintain, as a transitional measure, in line with the provisions of Article 32, paragraph 5, of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, the level of annual salary approved in section III of its resolution 59/282 for the current members of the International Court of Justice and the judges and ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda for the duration of their current term of office or until such a time as this amount is overtaken by the application of the revised annual salary system;

9. *Further decides* that any decisions with regard to the increase in the salary and other allowances of the members of the International Court of Justice and the judges and ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda shall not constitute a precedent for any other category of judges working within the United Nations system and that any decision regarding the service of any other category of judges shall be taken on a case-by-case basis;

10. *Decides* to maintain, as an interim measure, the retirement benefits of the members of the International Court of Justice and the judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda at the level resulting from the annual base salary decided in section III of

its resolution 59/282, and requests the Secretary-General to revise article 1, paragraph 2, of the Pension Scheme Regulations accordingly;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session on options for designing pension schemes for the members of the International Court of Justice and the judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, including defined-benefit and defined-contribution schemes, taking into account the possibility of calculating pensions on the basis of the number of years served rather than the term of office;

12. *Recalls* section I of its resolution 61/239 of 22 December 2006, and decides to extend its decision on the level of education grant for the members of the International Court of Justice and the judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on the additional expenditures in the context of the second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2006–2007 and the second performance reports on the budgets of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda for the biennium 2006–2007.

93rd plenary meeting
4 April 2007

General Assembly

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2 May 2007

Sixty-first session
Agenda item 117

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/61/592/Add.4)*]

61/263. Strengthened and unified security management system

The General Assembly,

Recalling section XI of its resolution 59/276 of 23 December 2004, by which it established the Department of Safety and Security of the Secretariat in order to ensure a strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations,

Recalling also its resolutions 56/255 of 24 December 2001, 56/286 of 27 June 2002, 57/305 of 15 April 2003, 58/270 of 23 December 2003 and 58/295 of 18 June 2004,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on a strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations;[1] measures taken to improve the operational administration of existing cost-sharing arrangements for safety and security;[2] a strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations: standardized access control;[3] and the coverage of staff by the malicious acts insurance policy and security spending by organizations of the United Nations system;[4] the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services concerning the utilization and management of funds approved by the General Assembly for strengthening the safety and security of United Nations premises[5] and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments thereon;[6] the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the global audit of field security management;[7] and the note by the Secretariat on information and communication technology security, business continuity and disaster recovery,[8]

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[1] A/61/531.
[2] A/61/223.
[3] A/60/695 and A/61/566.
[4] A/60/317 and Corr.1.
[5] A/60/291.
[6] A/60/291/Add.1.
[7] A/59/702.
[8] A/60/677.

Having also considered the relevant reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[9]

Emphasizing the importance of safety and security for all United Nations staff and premises,

Recognizing the important steps taken by the Department of Safety and Security in ensuring an effective and professional system-wide security management system,

Underlining the importance of achieving the highest levels of professionalism and expertise within the United Nations security management,

Reaffirming the critical importance of cooperation and coordination among all United Nations entities in the implementation of a unified and integrated system-wide policy for safety and security,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on a strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations;[1] measures taken to improve the operational administration of existing cost-sharing arrangements for safety and security;[2] a strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations: standardized access control;[3] and the coverage of staff by the malicious acts insurance policy and security spending by organizations of the United Nations system;[4] the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services concerning the utilization and management of funds approved by the General Assembly for strengthening the safety and security of United Nations premises[5] and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments thereon;[6] the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the global audit of field security management;[7] and the note by the Secretariat on information and communication technology security, business continuity and disaster recovery;[8]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Notes* the intention of the Department of Safety and Security to gradually assume a leading role in crisis response and crisis management for the United Nations system, and, in this regard, requests the Secretary-General to provide detailed information on the project and its related costs in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008–2009;

4. *Reaffirms* the importance of a system-wide policy with regard to the safety and security of United Nations staff, and the unity of command in this regard;

5. *Emphasizes* the need for a comprehensive safety and security policy framework at the United Nations which provides the basis for the threat and risk assessment, cooperation with the host countries, cost-sharing arrangements and operations of the Department of Safety and Security, and requests the Secretary-General to present such a framework to the General Assembly at the first part of its resumed sixty-second session;

6. *Stresses* that safety is a vital aspect of the mandate of the Department of Safety and Security, and requests the Secretary-General to conduct a comprehensive

[9] A/60/7/Add.9, 33 and 35 (for the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 7A*) and A/61/642.

review of the existing safety programmes at Headquarters and the duty stations and to report thereon to the General Assembly at the first part of its resumed sixty-second session;

7. *Reiterates* the principle that the United Nations Secretariat, organizations, funds and programmes share a common responsibility for the safety and security of their staff;

8. *Underlines* the principle that funding for safety and security, based on cost-sharing arrangements, should be clear, predictable and secure;

9. *Recalls* paragraphs 50 and 52 of section XI of its resolution 59/276, in which it called upon all entities participating in the cost-sharing arrangements to provide prompt and secure funding for such arrangements, and for those in arrears to ensure prompt payment of the outstanding sums;

10. *Notes* the process of consultations being undertaken between the Department of Safety and Security and the specialized agencies, funds and programmes, including on the strategic directions and operational requirements of security arrangements for the field to encourage ownership of the process and enhance their participation;

11. *Notes with concern* the situation outlined in paragraph 11 of the report of the Secretary-General[2] regarding the disagreement leading to the non-participation of the World Bank in field-related security costs, and emphasizes that this could hinder the coordination of the security operations in the field;

12. *Requests*, in this regard, the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to carry out consultations with the World Bank with the aim of resolving this issue, as a matter of urgency;

13. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and with the aim of achieving a workable cost-sharing arrangement:

(*a*) To ensure a common interpretation and implementation of all policies related to safety and security;

(*b*) To encourage the development of practical methods to ensure the effective implementation of the arrangements in place for the sharing of costs for safety and security across the United Nations system;

(*c*) To continue discussions with the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to achieve greater transparency in the different sources of security-related costs;

(*d*) To submit a report on steps taken to implement subparagraphs (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) above as well as on expenditures related to safety and security as compared to the total expenditures of specialized agencies, funds and programmes to the General Assembly at the first part of its resumed sixty-second session;

14. *Welcomes* the efforts of host countries in undertaking their responsibilities to ensure the safety and security of United Nations staff and premises;

15. *Emphasizes* that the primary responsibility for ensuring the safety and security of United Nations staff and premises rests with the host country, emphasizes also the role of the relevant host country agreements in defining this responsibility and, in this regard, reiterates its request to the Secretary-General

contained in paragraph 27 of section XI of its resolution 59/276 to report on the updating and revision of host country agreements as well as on the different capacities of host countries to provide security to the United Nations;

16. *Notes* the efforts of the Department of Safety and Security in cooperating with the national authorities of respective host countries in undertaking security risk assessment and management, and urges the Department to ensure cooperation with host countries and to ensure also that they are kept fully informed;

17. *Recognizes* the expanded training initiatives that have been implemented by the Department of Safety and Security, and encourages the Department to maintain training as a high priority and, in this context, to continue the collaboration with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, specialized agencies, funds and programmes, as well as the United Nations System Staff College at Turin, Italy;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services with a comprehensive management audit, inter alia, focusing on the structure of the Department of Safety and Security, recruitment procedures and the implementation of section XI of General Assembly resolution 59/276, and the interaction, cooperation and coordination of the Department with other Secretariat entities, including but not limited to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and to report thereon to the Assembly at the first part of its resumed sixty-second session;

19. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 17, 18 and 20 of section XI of its resolution 59/276;

20. *Takes note with appreciation* of the efforts of the Secretary-General to achieve as wide a geographical balance as possible in the Department of Safety and Security, without compromising the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, and urges the Secretary-General to continue such efforts, taking into account the proposals to effectively increase the representation of developing countries in the Secretariat requested of the Secretary-General in paragraph 17 of section X of its resolution 61/244 of 22 December 2006;

21. *Recalls* paragraph 1 of section XI of its resolution 61/244, in which it reaffirmed the goal of 50/50 gender distribution in all categories of posts within the United Nations system, especially at the senior and policymaking levels, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, and regrets that progress towards attaining this goal has been slow;

22. *Takes note*, in this context, of paragraph 42 of the report of the Secretary-General[1] and urges him to continue his efforts to achieve greater gender parity in the Department of Safety and Security, and invites Member States to assist the Secretary-General in this regard;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on steps taken to implement paragraphs 20, 21 and 22 above to the General Assembly at the first part of its resumed sixty-second session;

24. *Emphasizes* the importance of gaining efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of the approved projects through improved streamlining, setting benchmarks, meeting the timelines for different phases of the projects and administrative and managerial oversight and strengthening of accountability;

25. *Emphasizes also* the importance of taking full account of lessons learned and best practices at all duty stations with a view to facilitating the implementation

of the first phase of the standardized access control system, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon, including on any possible efficiency gains, to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session;

26. *Takes note* of the observation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in paragraph 16 of its report,[10] and requests the Secretary-General to develop and implement effective measures to guarantee the highest level of protection of personal data available in the standardized access control system;

27. *Decides* that data related to representatives of Member States and officials other than Secretariat officials and experts on mission,[11] as recorded in the standardized access control system, shall be subject to the full implementation of the following provisions:

(*a*) The data shall be recorded for the sole purpose of establishing the presence or absence of persons on the premises in case of emergency preparedness and recovery operations;

(*b*) Only staff members of the Department of Safety and Security, formally certified by the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, and duly informed of the provisions of the present paragraph, shall have access to the above-mentioned data, which shall under no circumstances be made available to any other party either inside or outside the United Nations unless so required for the purposes of the emergency preparedness and recovery operations referred to in subparagraph (*a*) above;

(*c*) The data shall be automatically deleted from the standardized access control system after completion of the read-in/read-out cycle, which will be no later than twenty-four hours for access data and no later than thirty days for digital video storage data;

(*d*) Violation of any of the provisions stipulated in subparagraphs (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) above shall constitute serious misconduct under staff regulation 10.2;

28. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraph 7 of its report,[10] and decides to revert to this issue in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008–2009, also taking into account paragraph 27 of section XI of its resolution 59/276;

29. *Decides* to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments up to 20,208,000 United States dollars under the programme budget for the biennium 2006–2007, 1,500,000 dollars under the budget for the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and 1,975,000 dollars under the budget for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, without prejudice to the implementation of projects previously approved for the biennium 2006–2007, to be reported in the context of the respective second performance reports, to implement the first phase of the standardized access control system;

30. *Stresses* the importance of fully implementing projects provided for under section 32, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the programme budget for the biennium 2006–2007, and requests the Secretary-

[10] A/61/642.

[11] See ST/SGB/2002/9.

General, in the event that the implementation of the first phase referred to in paragraph 29 above will impact previously approved projects, to report on such impact, for its consideration.

93rd plenary meeting
4 April 2007